

girls of 14 and 15 were being given by the representatives of the county to improper persons, who ruined their lives.

"Of course, there was only one thing for Bartzén to do about this, and that was to keep quiet. The girls were only helpless wards of the county, you know, and of no consequence. Not one of them had any political influence—not even a single vote.

"But Bartzén got right up and said what he thought about the thing, laid the responsibility on the society women.

"So, of course he got in bad. Why, he even made some society women appear before the Civil Service Commissioners!"

"And are these the reasons the newspapers are attacking him?"

The Manicured Politician looked exceedingly pained.

"Don't you understand," he said, "that the men who own the newspapers are in politics? And they can't get Bartzén to take orders from them. He just swears at them, and goes his own way. So, of course, they use their papers to injure Bartzén with the people.

"Then, besides, the men who own the newspapers are in the society game themselves for what there is in that. And they are friends of the society women whom Bartzén got after.

"Bartzén is a thorn in their sides, and besides uses vulgar language when they try to 'get him,' and of course, they have to go after him."

The Curious Person did not

quite understand the thing yet, and there were a lot more questions he wanted to ask, but the Manicured Politician said the boss had sent for him, and that he had to go immediately.

So he went away, and left the Curious Person to ponder over the strange relations between the society game and the newspapers, and the affairs of the people of Cook county.

CARDINAL FARLEY SENDS GREETING

Through the United Press, Cardinal Farley sent the following greeting to the American people:

"With profound affection I send a Christmas greeting to the great American people.

"I cannot forget the many happy Christmas days I spent in America. The people there were always exceedingly kind. I shall pray to God that He shower the choicest blessings upon them, especially a contijuan of that real liberty which is found there, shining out like a beacon to light the nations of the world.

"I wish a merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all Americans, Catholics and non-Catholics."

God rest you, merry gentlemen

Let nothing you dismay,

For Jesus Christ our Savior

Was born on Christmas day.

—Old Carol.

"Presents" I often say, "endear absents."—Charles Lamb.